

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE - CHALLENGING WEEK AT ARLETA

Dear Arleta Families,

This has been a challenging and sad week at Arleta as we struggle with the knowledge that some of our youngest community members have been involved in a situation involving drugs.

### **How did this happen and how did the school respond?**

The Portland Police Bureau and Child Protective Services are investigating this. Arleta staff followed district policies to ensure the safety of all students and contacted families directly impacted by the situation, Portland Police, Child Protective Services & PPS Central Office Leadership.

### **Who was the student and what has happened to them?**

Portland Public Schools under FERPA law cannot reveal the names, information about or discipline action regarding any Portland Public School student. PPS guidelines regarding students and drugs are outlined in our Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Discipline Handbook on page 28. Every family at Arleta should have received this. If you haven't please visit the office to pick one up or email the office and they will mail one to you.

### **What will happen moving forward?**

This is a complicated, yet impactful situation. There is an ongoing investigation that Portland Police and Child Protective Services are handling. PPS policy does not allow us to share details of discipline of any student. We will each process this in different ways, but counselors and administration are available to support you and your student as needed. Knowing when and how to talk to students about drugs is complex. Here are some resources that may help.

[Talking to Kids About Drugs](#) or [SpeakNow](#)

I will be talking with teachers in the coming weeks about how we are implementing the state required [Health Standards](#) and how this incident highlights the importance of teaching health to students and especially Standard 4: Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.

If you need additional resources or support, please feel free to reach out to the school counselor or talk with [Mary Krogh](#), who coordinates substance use supports for the district.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email, phone call or text if you have specific questions or want clarification regarding something that has been said or reported by the media. I believe with all of my heart that we will weather this situation as a community. We have amazing students, families and staff and together we are stronger.

Sincerely, Diana